

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
IO-13 HA-05 EUR-12 /089 W
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R 221623Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6805
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0335

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, WA
SUBJECT: BISHOP DE VRIES AND PROFESSOR KERINA

REF: STATE 44306,

1. EMBASSY CONTACTED BISHOP DE VRIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE "TO THE POINT" ARTICLE WHICH ALLEGES THAT HE HAS JOINED A "NEW COALITION" WITH PROFESSOR KERINA. DE VRIES SAID THAT THIS WAS NOT TRUE AND THAT KERINA'S SECRETARY HAS WRITTEN "TO THE POINT" TO CORRECT THE STORY.
2. DE VRIES SAID THAT THE MISUNDERSTANDING AROSE WHEN HE AGREED TO ADDRESS A MEETING ORGANIZED BY KERINA. DE VRIES SUBSEQUENTLY BROKE OFF THE ENGAGEMENT WHEN HE DISCOVERED THAT THE PROGRAM FOR THE MEETING LISTED HIM AS "COORDINATING SECRETARY" OF KERINA'S GROUP. HE COMMENTED THAT KERINA "TRIED TO USE ME," AND INDICATED THAT HE WOULD NOT BE LIKELY TO HAVE FUTURE DEALINGS WITH THE PROFESSOR.
3. ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF KERINA'S EFFORTS TO CORRAL SUPPORTERS INTO HIS RANKS RECENTLY CAME TO OUR ATTENTION. ON FEB. 20, MR. D. PETERSEN, A COLORED BUSINESSMAN IN

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WINDHOEK, CALLED ON THE EMBASSY (AND THE BRITISH EMBASSY AND POSSIBLY OTHERS) TO COMPLAIN THAT HE HAD BEEN TAKEN IN BY KERINA. PETERSEN SAID HE HAD ONLY BEEN RECENTLY ASKED BY KERINA TO BECOME AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER OF THE YOUNG PIONEERS AND TO HIS SURPRISE WAS NAMED THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE YOUNG PIONEERS GROUP WHEN IT HAD AN INFORMAL MEETING WITH THE CAPE TOWN FIVE IN WINDHOEK ON FEB. 5. AT HIS MEETING WITH THE CAPE TOWN

FIVE, PETERSEN SPOKE POSITIVELY ABOUT THE WESTERN APPROACH TO A SETTLEMENT. LATER HE SAID HE LEARNED THAT KERINA AND HIS NAMIBIAN PATRIOTIC COALITION, OF WHICH THE YOUNG PIONEERS IS A MEMBER, WERE OPPOSED TO THE WESTERN PROPOSAL AND DID NOT WANT ANY SOLUTION THAT MIGHT ALLOW SWAPO TO WIN AN ELECTION. PETERSEN SAID THE YOUNG PIONEERS CLAIM 2,000 MEMBERS, BUT HE NOW KNOWS THIS IS NOT TRUE. PETERSEN SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER HE WOULD STAY WITH THE YOUNG PIONEERS AND ATTEMPT TO "CHANGE IT FROM THE INSIDE", OR LEAVE THE ORGANIZATION. IN REALITY, HE SAID, HE WAS SYMPATHETIC TO SWAPO.
BOWDLER

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